

HK Phil's Annual Outdoor Extravaganza Swire Symphony Under The Stars Drew Nearly 20,000 Music Lovers to Central Harbourfront

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[18 November 2024, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) concluded its annual free outdoor mega-concert *Swire Symphony Under The Stars* last weekend. The first performance on 16 November 2024 ended early due to heavy rain. The weather cleared up the following day, allowing the second performance on 17 November 2024 to proceed successfully. The performances attracted nearly 20,000 attendees to the Central Harbourfront.

Led by internationally acclaimed conductor Elim Chan, the concerts transported the audience into a world of fairytales and classical masterpieces, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Swan Lake*, beautifully framed by Hong Kong's iconic skyline.

The concerts featured virtuoso pianist Chiyan Wong in Tsfasman's Jazz Suite for Piano & Orchestra, HK Phil Principal Horn Lin Jiang in Glière's Horn Concerto: movement III, hosted by presenter Vincent Tang. Music fans were also treated to the Hong Kong Female Pop Singers Medley, specially arranged by Harris Ho and Pong Law. Both enchanting evenings culminated in a spectacular fireworks display, accompanied by Tchaikovsky's triumphant *1812 Overture*.

To share the joy of this wonderful extravaganza with inbound travellers, the HK Phil collaborated with the Hong Kong Tourism Board for the first time, making a portion of tickets available to visitors from the Mainland and overseas.

The HK Phil extends its deepest gratitude for the generous and continued support from Swire, as well as to the music lovers who have supported the *Swire Symphony Under The Stars* year after year, especially those who attended at the Central Harbourfront despite the rain. The HK Phil will continue to spread the joy of classical music beyond the concert halls.

For viewers around the world, the performance on 17 November was simultaneously live streamed on the [HK Phil website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#), as well as the [SwireThrive Facebook page](#). The live-streamed video remains available on HK Phil and Swire's platforms for the public.

Online viewing platforms:

- [HK Phil's website](#), [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#)
- [SwireThrive Facebook page](#)

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director Designate: Tarmo Peltokoski

Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

Artistic Partner: Daniele Gatti

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is regarded as one of the leading orchestras in Asia. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually. The HK Phil won the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this accolade.

Tarmo Peltokoski will become the HK Phil's Music Director beginning in the 2026/27 season, after serving as Music Director Designate in 2025/26. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor, Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor, and Daniele Gatti is Artistic Partner.

The HK Phil has flourished in the last two decades under Jaap van Zweden (Music Director, 2012–2024) and Edo de Waart (Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, 2004–2012). The orchestra successfully completed a four-year journey through Wagner's *Ring* Cycle, performing and recording one opera from the cycle annually from 2015 to 2018. The concert performances were well received, and the live Naxos recordings were praised by critics, and garnered the *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019. Other recent recording projects include Mahler's Symphony no. 10, Shostakovich's Symphony no. 10, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 6 and Piano Concerto no. 1.

The HK Phil has toured extensively across Mainland China. The orchestra undertook a major tour in 2017 to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The HK Phil celebrated its 50th anniversary in the 2023/24 season, touring Europe, Asia, and Mainland China, performing in 22 cities across ten countries.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Vasily Petrenko, Krzysztof Urbanski, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Boris Giltburg, Lang Lang, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry, Yo-Yo Ma and Akiko Suwanai. The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and it has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions.

The HK Phil runs diverse education and community programmes in schools and outdoor spaces, bringing music into the hearts of tens of thousands of children and families every year.

The Swire Group has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Through this current sponsorship donation, the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland. A critical aspect of this is engaging with the community, especially young people. The sponsorship will also help promote local artistic excellence and enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities in the world.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Government of the HKSAR and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of core classical repertoire and innovative popular programming, extensive education and community programmes, and collaborations with, amongst others, Hong Kong Ballet, Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

The history of the HK Phil dates back to the establishment of the Sino-British Orchestra in 1947. In 1957, the orchestra was officially registered as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and became fully professional in 1974. The HK Phil is a registered charitable organisation.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Swire is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.